

Bugabond Ventures Ltd.

788 MONTGOMERY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
YURON 1-1048

JOHN G. CHRISTIAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

CURRENTLY IN PRODUCTION
"MELVIN BELL'S SAN FRANCISCO"

July 27, 1967

Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland
cc: John Starr
444 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Hal:

Our group had its first meeting last night with prospective producers of WHISTLEWASH as a motion picture property; for reasons of necessity and requested security, they wish to remain anonymous; this will mean our group will broken any resultant arrangement with them and/or their studio.

First, they are under no illusion that your works are any-the-less controversial than you meant them to be; they are also aware of the Government pressures that must be expected. Frankly, they see Western Europe as the first market for them, which would in turn create a domestic demand. I agree.

I can tell you that these men are of the highest order within their industry - internationally; they also have studio and exhibitor associations/affiliations which would guarantee the broadest possible market and box office.

No specific terms and conditions were discussed last night; it was merely a general confab to background them on otherwise unavailable details about this entire matter; I did, however, gain

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some insights into the kind of mechanism they require, should we get that far.

Let me elaborate on my group. It consists of some well-known persons who are most influential in business generally, in the motion picture field specifically. Their reputations are above reproach. This has meant a great deal in enabling me to approach the calibre of men required to do this project justice. They, too, require anonymity at the public level, although they are most active behind the scenes. Their roles will continue far beyond the point of negotiating and brokering.

By brokering, we will work out all terms, conditions, and options to the satisfaction of all parties. All figures et al presented to you will be net monies and all other terms, conditions and options exerciseable to your advantage only. Our fee or equity remuneration will come from the ultimate buyer of rights to WHITWASH.

I have tentatively decided on several key areas of concession that I now put forth for your consideration:

- * Cash advance - this should not be less than \$50,000 net to you.
- * Production/Exhibition deadline - no more than two years should be granted for completion and showing, otherwise all rights should automatically revert back to you. After the first 12 months you should receive an additional \$25,000.
- * Box Office Royalty - not less than 5% of gross box office.
- * Consultant/Advisor Fee-Film Promotion - not less than \$1,500 per week, plus First Class accommodations and travel expenses.
- * Artistic assurances - as required and legally obtainable.

I recommend the above as an equitable base; if you concur, please acknowledge as such; if you have other ideas please let me know in sufficient time to incorporate these additions/deletions into the tenor of our continuing discussions; understand we will ask for more than the minimum suggested, but we must have guidelines at the bottom.

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This is primarily directed to John Starr:

On or about the day Dean Andrews' trial opens in New Orleans, you are to go to the Executive offices of the Hearst Corporation to present to Richard Deems, President of Hearst Magazines, copies of Hal's first three private editions, plus copies of Dell's reprints. With these please include such reviews of his works as appeared in the New York Sunday Times of several weeks back; leave your business card, should you not be ushered in at that juncture. (address: 959 - 8th Avenue.) In the case you are asked in by Deems, concentrate on two things: Hal's credentials as a bona fide critic; and, the phenomenal success his books have had in spite of limited distribution. DO NOT get involved with the political aspects and ramifications of WHITTEWASH; stick to the business perspective only.

Your way has been adequately cleared by a friend and Hearst Executive and Director, Jack Cooke; Deems will be aware of your purpose, so make reference to Cooke and myself and my liaison role with Hal.

Beyond this point the ball game is yours; they are most interested; and Hearst has the capacity and corporate wherewithall to advance WHITTEWASH in every conceivable direction. I'm still cynical about our chances to align with them, but it's worth our best efforts. Good luck.

We will hold in obeiance further talks on the motion picture until we get the authority to proceed on the aforementioned guidelines on requested modifications.

JG: tm
cc: Jack Cooke

Best Personal Regards,

John G. Christian

